



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

April 19, 2006

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 299. The bill eliminates the requirement that a county shoreland zoning ordinance is retained on newly incorporated territory.

We can all agree that Wisconsin's many lakes and rivers are vital to our economic base and our quality of life. While I do not dispute that we need to continue to grow and develop, I believe we can do so in a way that respects our natural resources and our strong environmental legacy. It is clear that in Wisconsin economic development and a clean environment are not mutually exclusive. Wisconsin is leading the Midwest in job growth all the while maintaining our strong environmental protections.

An amendment offered on the Assembly floor would have achieved many of the bill's goals while maintaining a responsible level of stewardship. The counter proposal would have simply required that the annexing city or village have in effect a zoning ordinance, for the newly annexed area. If the city or village does not have an existing ordinance, they would have the option of enacting zoning that ensures that protections are in place and are at least as protective as the standards laid out in the Department of Natural Resources Rule, NR 115.

This would have ensured that basic minimum protections were put in place regardless of who has jurisdiction – the county, the city or village. This does not seem to be an unreasonable standard to meet but was unfortunately rejected by the Legislature.

Since the late 1960s, the shoreland management program has helped to ensure that the best interests of the state and its residents are put first when making land use decisions. Weakening it is not the right thing to do.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM DOYLE
Governor